

# 121 Centre Activities

## ● Bookshop:

Books, pamphlets, papers, 'zines, comics, T-Shirts, Badges,  
Postcards

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 6 — 10  
Saturday 1 — 5

## ● Cafe:

Vegan food

Hours: Monday (with Video), Tuesday, Thursday, 7 — ?

## ● Squatters Advice:

Free up-to-date information and advice

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 6 — 10  
Saturday 1 — 5

## ● Printing:

Our offset facilities are suitable for leaflets, posters (up to A3),  
pamphlets, 'zines, newsletters, comics, cards etc. We are a  
garage press who avoid regular hours and concentrate on work  
we feel positive about.

## ● Autonomous Archive:

A collection of autonomous print creations accessible during  
bookshop hours.

## ● Venue Available:

We host various workshops, meetings and discussions etc.  
Please contact us if you are interested in using these facilities.

## ● Get Involved!

Collectives which use the centre include the Anarchist Black  
Cross (Prisoners Support), Contra-Flow (Free info-paper and  
part of the European Counter Network), Bad Attitude, London  
Psychogeographical Association (South London Section), the  
Association of Autonomous Astronauts ...

**Tel: 0171 274 6655**

**Fax: 0171 326 0353**

# Holding Up Half the Sky!



## 121 Centre is Repairing the Roof

The 121 Centre has been a squatted anarchist social centre for fifteen years. During that time all sorts of repairs have been done to keep the building maintained. However, we are now faced with a repair which is long over due. It has no longer been possible to patch up the roof — it has had to be replaced. An expensive business.

We have already raised over £600 and started work. But to complete the roof we need to raise about another £1,000. All the money goes on materials as we do the work with the voluntary labour of those active

around the centre. We shall of course be organising more benefits but we have also decided to allow YOU the opportunity to contribute directly.

We welcome your contribution no matter how large or small, financial or physical (particularly if you have roofing experience).

Please send it to:

121 Centre  
121 Railton Road,  
Herne Hill,  
London SE24

Please make cheques payable to:  
Anarchist Black Cross

# Rebels in London #23

an irregular posting of rebellious energy

## 56a INFOSHOP

SEPTEMBER 1998

56 CRAMPTON ST, LONDON SE17

anarchist zone, open since 1991, has bookshop + reading space, large archive and sometime bike library / workshop (Th, F 2-8pm)

### • 121 ANARCHIST CENTRE phone for opening times

121 RAILTON RD, BRIXTON SE24 0LR (Tel: 0171-224-6655)

infamous anarchist bookshop, reading space, cafe, hang-out zone, gigs, part es, meetings. Squatted since 1980! Monday cafe.

### • FREEDOM BOOKSHOP

(IN ANGEL ALLEY) 84B WHITECHAPEL HIGH ST, LONDON E1 7QX

100 years old anarchist bookshop hidden in alley. Vast @ stock and stuff

### • @ DISCUSSION MEETING

EVERY FRIDAY AT CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE, LONDON

rag-bag of chat on @ topics You have been warned!

### • LONDON GREENPEACE

c/o 5 CALEDONIAN RD, LONDON N1 (Tel: 0171-713-1289)  
original eco-@ group working v. hard against multinational world destruction

### • ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

C/O 121 RAILTON RD, LONDON SE24 0LR (0171-326-0353)  
Prisoner support for @ and class struggle prisoners. Always needs helpers

### • SMASH HITS

BM BOX 5538 LONDON WC1N 3XX  
Ex-Class War Fed people producing 'Smash Hits' rag for analysis + propagation of new rebellious ideas n' org inising

### • LONDON CLASS WAR

PO BOX 467 LONDON E8 3QX  
Continuing 'Class War' paper after the Class War Fed bust-up. Politics Class War style etc

### • ANARCHIST COMMUNIST FEDERATION

c/o 84b WHITECHAPEL HIGH ST, LONDON E1 7QX  
part of UK wide national network of class struggle anarchists publishing bi-monthly 'Organis!' magazine

### • SOLIDARITY FEDERATION (LONDON)

PO BOX 1681 LONDON N8 7DN  
part of UK wide network of anarcho-syndicalist groups producing regular 'Direct Action' magazine

### • CONTRAFLOW

c/o 56a INFOSHOP 56 CRAMPTON ST, LONDON SE17  
bi-monthly free sheet of news + resistance. Needs collective members and distributors (*and money!! ha ha ha*)

### • ANIMAL

PO BOX 467 LONDON E8 3QX  
New magazine in a class war style with news and analysis

### • BLACK FLAG

BM: HURRICANE LONDON WC1N 3XX  
Long time class struggle @ mag with good @ contacts

### • HARINGEY SOLIDARITY GROUP

BOX 2474 LONDON N8

Hard-working local activism. Regular bulletin or various issues

### • LEGAL DEFENSE MONITORING GROUP

C/O BM HAVEN LONDON WC1N 3XX (Tel: 0181-531-7116)  
does legal back-up on demos and actions and is brilliant. May get your butt outta jail. Always needs more folks.

## LONDON WOMEN'S DIRECT ACTION GROUP

PO BOX 9348 BRIXTON SW9 (Tel: 0171-978-8214)  
newly started group based in Brixton, ready to kick ass.

## RECLAIM THE STREETS

PO BOX 9656 LONDON N4 4JY (Tel: 0171-281-4621)  
eco-anarchists + originators of mass street parties

and inspirational activism. Respect South London contact Tel: 0961-398-257 Wed nite meetings

## FREEDOM NETWORK

PO BOX 9384 LONDON SW9 (Tel: 0171-978-8214)  
still fighting in the post-Criminal Justice Act wake  
Has action phone line and loads of connections

## STONEHENGE CAMPAIGN

c/o 99 TORRIANO AVE, LONDON NW5 2RX  
Campaigns for free festivals and produces regular listing of festivals and other stuff

## SEXUAL FREEDOM COALITION

PO BOX 42B, LONDON W1A 4ZB  
For radical sexualities. Holds demos and parties and puts out irregular 'Consenting Adults' newspaper

## PASSION BRIGADE

BM 207 LONDON WC1N 3XX  
Anarchist perspectives on everything sexual (and more!). Produce 'Passion Brigade' newsletter

## ANARQUIST

C/O 121 RAILTON RD, LONDON SE24 0LR (Tel: 0171-978-8214)  
Queer anarchist frenzy. Performance, parties, zine + actions

## FEMINISTS AGAINST CENSORSHIP

BM 207 LONDON WC1N 3XX  
Pro-porn, pro-freedom feminist group producing leaflets and books

## DIRECT ACTION NETWORK

3 CRAWLEY RD, LONDON N22 6AN (Tel: 0181-899-1361)  
Disabled activists doing direct action on welfare cuts, transport, visibility etc.

## ANTI-FASCIST ACTION

BM BOX 1734, LONDON WC1N 3XX  
U.K. wide anti-fascist group do 'Fighting Talk' paper and confront fascists

## ACTIVE DISTRIBUTION

BM ACTIVE LONDON WC1N 3XX  
100% D.I.Y punk and @ mail order with huge range of everything. Catalogue + stalls etc

## A.K. DISTRIBUTION

PO BOX 12766 EDINBURGH EH8 9YE  
Huge mail-order catalogue of marginal publications inc. imports + own AK Press anarcho titles

## HEAD MAGAZINE / DISTRO

BM UPLIFT, LONDON WC1N 3XX  
Motley crew producing phat mag extolling radical spiritualities, rebellious politics and fucking in the streets. Sell other stuff too

## FEMINIST LIBRARY

5 WESTMINSTER RD, LONDON SE1  
Large lending library and reading space. Women only + weekly Tuesday discussion night

## COUNTER PRODUCTIONS

PO BOX 556, LONDON SE5 0LR  
High weirdness by mail. Large catalogue of bonzer books and mags. Many US imports and arrggghhh!!!!

all publications mentioned (and more) are free to read at the archive at 56a Infoshop. Donations of material (leaflets, books, mags etc) always appreciated. xxxx



hey folks! send in your corrections, new revolutions and choc cakes..we like choc cakes..xx

SEPT 1998

#23

# SQUATTING IN LONDON

## • ADVISORY SERVICE FOR SQUATTERS

2 ST PAUL'S RD, LONDON N1 2QN  
TEL 0171-359-8814

MON - FRI 2-6pm *but phone first*

Dedicated office for all things squatting.  
Phone advice line and publication of awesome "Squatters Handbook" (£1+ SAE)

## • SOUTHWARK HOMELESS INFO PROJECT

612 OLD KENT RD, LONDON SE15  
TEL 0171-277-7639  
MON - FRI 4 until 7pm

S.London squatting advice project producing various helpful leaflets and working hard to keep the empties filled

## • BRIXTON SQUATTERS AID

121 RAILTON RD, LONDON SE24  
TEL 0171 274 6655  
SATURDAYS *afternoons*

More folks working to fill Brixton empties.  
Help and advice in Brixton area

## • HACKNEY SQUATTERS

BM CRL LONDON WC1N 3XX

There is usually one squatted social space in Hackney at any one time.  
Try writing here !!

## • 56a INFOSHOP SQUATTERS ARCHIVE

56 CRAMPTON ST LONDON SE17  
THURS / FRI 3-7pm

practical info on getting in, Squatters Handbook, files on squatting around the world and resistance etc

## temporaty autonomous zones

### • CRITICAL MASS CYCLE RIDE

Last Friday of every month. Meet South Bank, under Waterloo Bridge London 6pm  
• FREE PARTY INFO (in London)  
Friday + Saturday night after 10pm  
0181-959-7525



## • BRIGHTON TEAPOT

Feisty squatters centre. Advice and news in the Brighton area. Try (01273) 628192 or (01723) 685913 for latest location

write us at 56a INFOSHOP for more sites of radical rebellious righteousness... peace camps, eco-camps, other regional contacts and latest happenings



## Centres in U.K.

### • AARDVAARK CENTRE

Cafe and bookshop  
115 ALCESTER RD, MOSELEY  
BIRMINGHAM (Tel: 0121-449-5452)

### • FAHRENHEIT 451

Bookshop + vegan food.  
VIRGINIA GALLERIES, VIRGINIA ST, GLASGOW

### • KEBELE

community space / squat info / library  
14 ROBERTSON RD, EASTVILLE, BRISTOL BS5  
(Tel: 0117-939-9469)

### • RAINBOW CENTRE

Library, shop, info, videos 'n' stuff  
180 MANSFIELD RD, NOTTINGHAM NG1  
(Tel: 115-958-5666)

### • RISING SUN

Arts centre, veggie cafe  
30 SILVER STREET, READING RG1  
(Tel: 01734-866-788)

### • SOLIDARITY CENTRE

community space, resources, info etc  
3 ROYAL EXCHANGE COURT 85-87 QUEEN ST,  
GLASGOW G1  
(Tel: 0141-226-5066)

### • 1-in-12 CLUB

anarchist run social space with gigs etc  
21-23 ALBION ST, BRADFORD BD1  
(TEL: 01724-734-160)



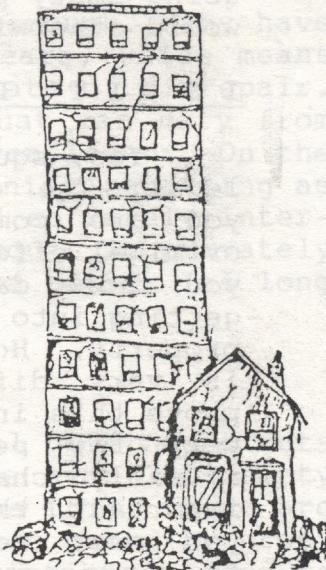
# **Stoke Newington Housing Action**

**SICK OF ...**

**HOMELESSNESS**

**BAD HOUSING**

**HIGH RENT**



**Ever thought of ...**

**SQUATTING?**

## WHAT IS SQUATTING?

Basically, squatting means getting into a house or flat that is empty and making it your home. Like all other households, squatters have the right to essential services such as electricity, water, post, gas, rubbish collection and so on. Squatting means using empty property to live in, empty property that would otherwise just rot away.

## IS IT LEGAL?

Yes, squatting is legal. The only time you are committing a criminal offence is if you cause damage when getting into the empty property. However, it is very difficult to prove this in court so very few people are actually charged. The important thing that you must remember is to get in quickly and quietly, causing as little damage as possible.



## WHO ARE STOKE NEWINGTON HOUSING ACTION?

Stoke Newington Housing Action is made up of squatters who are committed to helping people escape the total poverty of homelessness and bad housing. We can supply:-

1. an up-to-date list of empty houses and flats;
2. practical help on how to gain entry into empties;
3. advice on gas/electricity problems;
4. basic legal advice;
5. 'The Squatters' Handbook' - a helpful and very practical guide to all aspects of squatting;..
6. other more general information;

But Stoke Newington Housing Action is not an 'estate agents' - we want to help people to help

themselves and we are also committed to challenging the causes of the housing crisis that forces people into squatting.

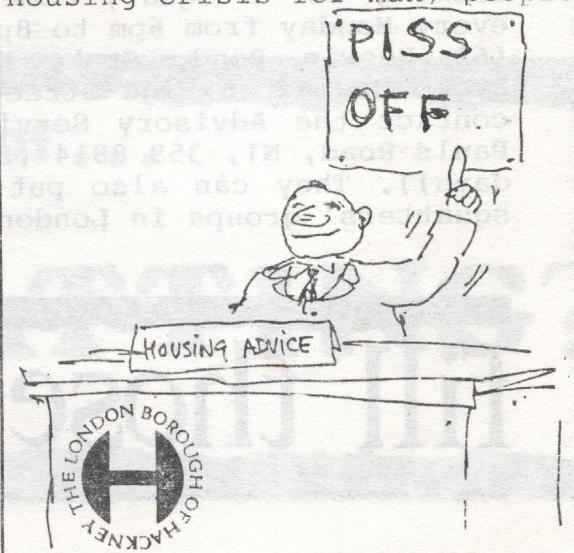
## S Q U A T T I N G   I N   H A C K N E Y

The majority of squatted houses in Hackney are owned by the council. Some are houses, but most are found on the many estates in the borough. Many have been empty for months and often years, which means that sometimes they're in a bad state of disrepair. The time that you can get in a squat can vary from between 6 months to a year - or even longer. On the whole, the police in Hackney recognise squatting as a symptom of the housing crisis and so rarely intervene. It is also very possible to squat in privately owned places and Housing Association houses (as long as, of course, they're empty).

## H A C K N E Y   C O U N C I L

Due to a combination of central government cuts and complete inefficiency, there are over 3000 empty council homes in Hackney. As well as this, there are nearly 5000 empty homes here that are owned by property speculators and Housing Associations. Added to this are the many thousands of people who are homeless or in very poor housing. Squatting is a short term solution to the housing crisis for many people.

Some people say that it's "queue jumping" but that ignores the basic reality of the housing situation - homelessness plus empty homes equals a lot of squatting. It is the government officials, property speculators and the councillors who are the guilty ones, not squatters - because they are the ones responsible for the housing crisis.



A GROWING SOLUTION IN  
TIMES OF HARDSHIP

Finding a decent home is becoming harder and harder - unless you've got loadsamoney! Not only is squatting a solution to the housing crisis, but it also shows that we don't have to rely on rich landlords or useless councils. It's time that we started to take things that we need for ourselves. It is important that we share the knowledge we gain with as many people as possible. We can all help by making lists of empty property, by helping people get in, by getting involved with Stoke Newington Housing Action or other squatters/housing action groups. Squatting is not the problem - the real problem is the housing crisis, the empty homes, the fact that homes are seen in terms of profit and power, not real human need.



If you want to find out more about squatting or are looking for a squat, come to our regular meetings every Monday from 6pm to 8pm at The Old Fire Station (61 Leswin Road, Stoke Newington, N16, just off Stoke Newington High Street). For more information, contact the Advisory Service for Squatters (2a St. Pauls Road, N1, 359 8814 (2pm - 6pm, Mondays to Fridays)). They can also put you in touch with other squatters' groups in London and across the country.

fill those emptys!

X-Header: prp97mfl@stoa.shef.ac.uk  
Precedence: bulk  
Date: Mon, 18 Jan 1999 23:06:44 +0000  
To: "\Zapatista Challenge List\" barrenador@cephale.org";  
From: Patrick Gun\_Cuninghame <P.Gun-Cuninghame@mdx.ac.uk> (by way of G.  
Barrenador)  
Subject: (Fwd) urgent! 121 centre in danger!!!  
X-UIDL: 52554b332dc984a58415ddcf12038d97

----- Forwarded Message Follows -----

Date: Sun, 17 Jan 1999 13:55:47 +0000 (GMT)  
From: sarit M <saritm@dircon.co.uk>  
Subject: urgent! 121 centre in danger!!!  
To: Multiple recipients of list <jl8discussion@gn.apc.org>  
Reply-to: jl8discussion@gn.apc.org

dear friends,  
this is an urgent message regarding the 121 centre in Brixton, London England.  
a few days ago, Lambeth council (the local council) was granted a court order  
allowing it to evict  
the centre, which has been squatted for 18 years.

there is a possibility that the council will attempt to evict the building  
very soon, and in order to resist that threat, we are organizing, and we need  
as much help as possible.

WHAT TO DO  
the first thing happening is a meeting to get together plans for defending the  
centre.  
the meeting is happening on: Monday, the 18th of Jan. (that's in two days) at  
the 121 centre, 121 Railton rd, Brixton. at 19:00 sharp (no tea and chatting -  
this is serious!)

we will keep the centre occupied in order to prevent Lambeth council from  
catching us unprepared. other stuff will come up at the meeting.

please inform anyone you know who is prepared to defend squatted, autonomous  
centres against a greedy council. The 121 centre has been squatted for 18  
years. according to English law, that means the current occupiers have a right  
to own it, but the courts who care only about defending property owners are  
obviously not going to do that gladly.

\*\*\*\*please\*\*\*\* forward this e-mail to as many people as possible, and post it  
on relevant mailing lists. success depends on building a massive movement to  
resist eviction. anyone who has ever used the centre should have a good reason  
to want it to stay there.

stay in touch - the 121 phone no is: 0171 978 8214. (ansaphone message with  
info and updates) there will also be a webpage very soon, with regular updates.  
help in any way possible - we will need food, money, building material and  
people to build barricades, plus all the other things needed for an  
occupation. also, if you are willing to make phone calls (and own a mobile  
phone with free calls) anyway, we all know what to do.

Sarit M, For the 121 collective

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121 centre is a world famous squatted centre, which has been a home for  
anarchist activists for years. it has a bookshop, cafe and performance space,  
and housed many radical groups over the years, including squatters groups,  
feminist magazine collectives, musicians, artists and environmental activists.  
last summer it hosted "queerupture", London's first anarco-queer gathering. It  
is located in 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, South London, England. for post: PO  
Box 9384, Brixton SW9 7ZB, London.  
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My So-Called Site \*updated 16-5\*  
<http://www.saritm.dircon.co.uk/index.html>

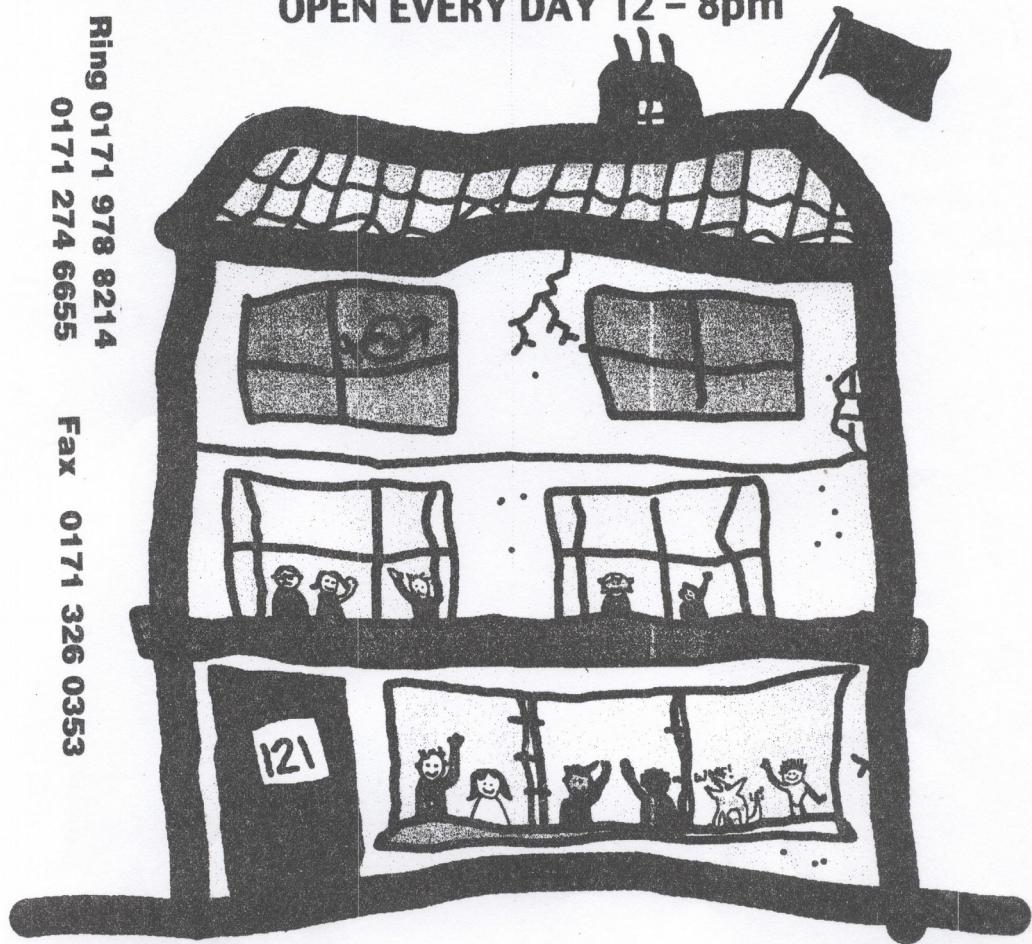
**18 years in occupation**

# **SAVE 121**

**121 Centre, 121 Railton Rd Brixton**

**OPEN EVERY DAY 12 - 8pm**

Ring 0171 978 8214  
0171 274 6655      Fax 0171 326 0353



**and KEEP BRIXTON FREE**

# 121 CENTRE : WE'RE STILL HERE!

The future of the long-running 121 anarchist squat centre hangs in the balance. On January 14th, after 18 years of occupation, Lambeth Council won a possession order in Lambeth County Court, entitling them to evict the squatters after 14 days. The 121 Collective had contested that the council had lost title to the building, under the 12 year adverse possession principle. The council argued that since the squatters had fought a 1983-5 court case on the grounds that they were licensees, they had recognised the council's title to the property. This renders the 12 year clause irrelevant, as you are not allowed to recognise the council or acknowledge they have any right to evict you or grant you a licence, tenancy etc. Since letters were exchanged in June 1985, 11 years, 11 months and 2 weeks before the latest proceedings began, the Judge Cox decided the case was still going, although it had been adjourned and not come back to court for over 12 years. All legal arguments by the 121 and learned friends were rejected. Leave to appeal was refused.

On Friday February 5th the occupiers of 121 were told by the bailiffs that they were coming on to evict us on Monday 8th. Over the weekend we spread the word and prepared ourselves, flyposting the area, distributing newsheets and phoning friends and allies.

For the last 3 weeks, the 121 Collective and friends have been producing publicity: leaflets, letters, emails, the South London Stress, posters, a booklet. We've campaigned around the area, drawing links between the eviction of 121 and the clearance of squatters from the area, the gradual gentrification of Brixton and the slow destruction of its street culture and communities. As well as increasing council cuts, sell-offs, dubious redevelopments. This has achieved us some support, leading us to interesting conversations and ideas about future actions.

## INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Meanwhile emails were being sent from supporters all over the country and the world to the council, demanding the eviction be stopped. The council leader Jim Dickson replied that the council needed the money from selling off the 121 building to help do up Brixton for the good of the locals... yeah yeah.

## CAPPUCINO COUNCIL GIVES US FROTH

Much of the City Challenge money spent between in the last few years has done little for the locals but allowed the middle class to colonise Brixton's Town Centre and push many of us out of our houses, our pubs, and future plans intend to knock down parts of the market and shops too. (Not counting large amounts paid as fat salaries to a range of professional community-wreckers, or that have just vanished. Where did all the money for the tube development go?) Many people are a bit suspicious of it all.

## E-DAY?

Monday morning, at 7am, we were out in the street. The 121 had been barricaded against the bailiffs. When the police started sniffing around, we barricaded the street around 121, setting off our air-raid siren and starting up a sound system.

Around 70 of us held the street for about 2 hours. However the cops were a bit confused. Chief Inspector Craggs approached us, and in negotiations (with most of us) told us he had already called off the eviction because of public order issues. He was being very polite, even cracking jokes. The bailiffs, he said, had been planning to come down with a few builders and kick the door in. Not really ready for resistance. We weren't going to be evicted that day - or for a few days after, he claimed.

We held several meetings of all present, discussing what to do. A council officer, from the corporate property dept., came to confirm Scraggs' words, so did Brixton top cop Superintendent Stout. So eventually did the bailiffs. It rang true. The cops and the council said they were meeting the following day to discuss the 121. We said we wanted to be involved in any discussions. Crabs and Snout said no, but they would talk to us afterwards.

## TAKE US TO YOUR LEADER

We decided to press the issue. We took down the street barricades, as the bailiffs weren't coming and the cops were about to come and do it anyway. We felt we had to persuade the council we were determined to defend 121. Leaving a group in the building, 45 of us proceeded to storm Lambeth Town Hall, running through the building, looking for the Council Leader's office. We got there, but Jim Dickson was out. 2 security guards & an office worker,

assaulted a few of us, overdoing their job for no good reason since we didn't want to fight them. The cops arrived, broke through the office door and chucked us out, handcuffing 5 or 6 people and being generally less pleasant than they'd been earlier on at our barricade. Higher-up coppers may be politicians but your ornery bobby likes nothing better than kicking ass. We were booted out without arrests.

**We'd proved that their building is easier to get into than ours.**

All in all the day was a good laugh, and showed that the council and the police are wary of the 121 and what trouble we can cause. It may be they are stalling, while they prepare a large-scale assault. At the same time as we were blocking the street, 3 large local squats who were waiting for the bailiffs were evicted nearby (See elsewhere). On Monday afternoon , a council officer rang the 121. He said the Council leader was prepared to meet us, at our convenience, to discuss what we wanted. We arranged to meet them 2 days later.

## SUPPING WITH THE DEVIL

Three of us went to meet with Council Leader Jim Dickson, armed with a mandate from the 121 Collective. We were prepared to ask for a deal, where we got to keep the building, acknowledging the council as our landlords, but paying no rent, & them not responsible for repairs. We knew we could not afford a proper tenancy. This seemed the only option. (Lambeth and other councils have made this kind of deal before). If they were willing to negotiate we might as well push it.

Slim Jim was not willing to negotiate. He restated what he'd said in replies to the many emails supporters had sent to the council: they had to sell the building to raise vital funds for their program to improve Lambeth services. The same services being cut as we speak: schools, libraries, housing. He offered us the opportunity to pay an unaffordable amount of cash for one of a number of Lambeth buildings in the boonies - just where they want us, miles away from Brixton, our home, where property is hot and its only a short walk to Slippery Jim's office (open all hours).

Brixton, our home, where property is not and it's only a short walk to Slippery Jim's office (open air bar). We took the list of empties though: cheers Jim, we'll pass them on to people made homeless by your policies.

The whole meeting for Oily Jim was just a Public Relations exercise - covering his back. He only got the tiniest bit rattled when we suggested that us resisting the eviction might cost them more than they'd get from the auction. We never had much hope of getting something out of the negotiations, and we were right. We left in the same position as we went in - waiting for the bailiffs and ready to resist.

**THE LATEST:** Another eviction date was set for Friday Feb 12th, but the council withdrew this. They realise now they need to plan a bigger operation.

**121 still needs support! Call in, or ring us on 0171 274 6655/ 0171 978 8214.**

Visit the 121 Website at: <http://i.am/121centre>

e-mail:mark261@hotmail.com

**121 Bailton Road, Brixton, London, SE24**

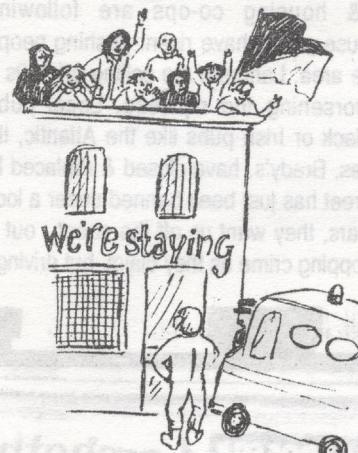
121 Railton Road, Brixton, London, SE2

# STOP THE BAILIFFS!

## FIGHT THE EVICTION OF 121!

Today Lambeth Council is trying to evict the 121 Centre, which we have been squatting for 18 years. In court on January 14th they claimed they still owned the building, despite leaving us in possession for so long. They want to sell the building off in March, probably to some yuppies or a property company.

### WHAT IS 121?



121 Railton Road was squatted in December 1980. Since 1981 it has been used as an anarchist bookshop and information centre, a cheap cafe and social space, a meeting point for local & political groups, provided offices for magazines, newspapers and publishing collectives; a late night club and gig venue. From the building people have been involved in many campaigns & social struggles, including supporting the Miners and Printers' strikes in the 80s, housing and squatting struggles, anti-racist & anti-fascist organising, supporting prisoners here & abroad, fighting the poll tax, women organising for themselves; against council cuts, evictions and redevelopments, anti-benefit cuts - to name but a few. Brixton Squatters Aid from 1982 has given

help & advice & lent tools to 1000s of people squatting in abandoned property in Lambeth. 121 has been a space for people to meet, eat, talk, & dance, a space under the control of those who use it, not tied to or funded by the council or any institution, free of interference from bureaucrats & business. This is why the council want us out - because we've never hesitated to attack the powers that be when they deserve it, & we have shown you don't need the council or any other power over people's lives.

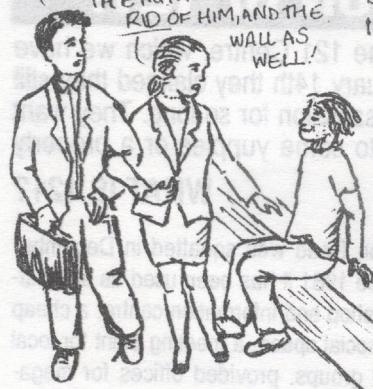
### UNDER ATTACK

121 has survived eviction threats before, as well as a police raid in 1984, press lies about us & an attempt by fascists to burn the centre down in 1993. This time the council are determined to kick us out. **But we won't go quietly!**

We are blockading the street to stop them getting to the building. Come down & help out! Even if we are evicted, we will not go away. The struggles we have been involved in will continue! We live here and will find other spaces to organise from. In this society, where profit rules and people are forced to work for the rich and many of us live in misery or poverty, most of us are forced to struggle every day.

## A BRIGHTER BRIXTON?

LOOK, DEAR, IT'S A MAN JUST SITTING THERE ON THE WALL!  
MAYBE WE SHOULD INFORM THE AUTHORITIES TO GET RID OF HIM, AND THE WALL AS WELL!



Another reason why the council want us out, is because in alliance with property developers they are trying to change the face of Brixton. They say this is all to improve the lives of people who live here. A lot of the changes however are aimed at getting rid of people the council & the police see as a threat, or who don't fit in to the image of Brixton they want to portray. So much of the Brixton street culture has been harassed off the streets, 1000s of squats have been evicted, & housing co-ops are following.

Rents/house prices have risen: pushing people out of the area. Lambeth are selling off 100s of houses, worsening the squeeze. Local pubs, especially Black or Irish pubs like the Atlantic, the Coach & Horses, Brady's, have closed & replaced by up-market bars aimed at yuppies. Drinking in the street has just been banned under a local bylaw. So if we can't afford to drink in the posh bars, they want us off the street - out of sight. CCTV cameras watch our every move, not stopping crime as they claim, but driving it away from the showpiece 'Town Centre' into our estates & streets. A big development is planned above the tube that will

destroy much of the market & local shops. Meanwhile many community spaces, advice centres & services are run into the ground or cut completely.

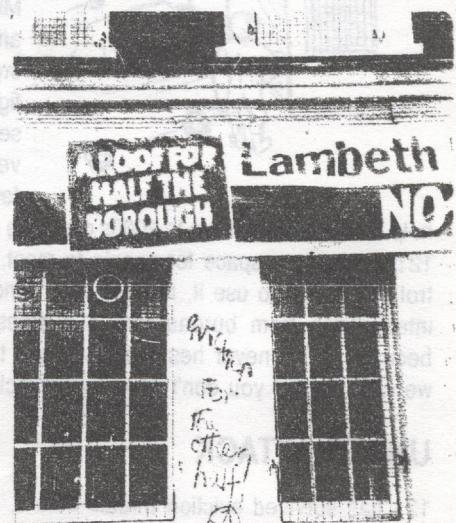
The kind of Brixton the council want is where we do as we are told, don't cause trouble as our lives get worse, or can't afford to go out, or even to live here.

We at 121 won't play.

We will continue to take action: against the council: against developers and businessmen destroying our area. We will organise drink-ins in the street. We will continue to squat empty houses. We will support people fighting cuts in services, opposing development, resisting police abuse. We'll take whatever steps are necessary. We are only one group of people. But there's 1000s of us in Lambeth, all in the same boat. If we work together, despite our many differences, there's a lot we can do.

The fight goes on! The eviction is only a beginning!

**South London Stress c/o 56a Info Shop, 56 Crampton St, SE17.**



● Organiser Alex Owolade on Saturday's march

asylum seekers, criticising Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, who lead the Lawrence inquiry, for deporting hundreds of them.

Movement for Justice, the organisers of Saturday's march

Others chanted a phrase from the Manic Street Preachers hit song, "If you tolerate this, then your children will be next."

Despite the open hatred towards police - the resignation

Duwayne Brooks, who witnessed his best friend Stephen Lawrence murdered by white racist thugs, walked alongside the march which ended at Downing Street. He lead a depu-

and David Norris, could be charged with conspiracy to murder, affray or assault.

A Met spokesman said a 'number of ways forward' have been identified.

# NEWS EXTRA

## Life for pervert could be released in 40 months

CAMBERWELL: A maniac given life last week for a second sex attack on vulnerable young girls could be out in just 40 months.

Colin McCallam, 39, indecently assaulted a 13-year-old girl at his flat in Denmark Hill, in 1987.

Then last April the pervert, who has spent time in mental hospitals, raped a 19-year-old autistic girl in west London. He was given life at the Old Bailey on Friday.

McCallam was jailed for 18 months for the 1987 Camberwell attack. Then in 1990 he got five years for a machete attack in a packed pub, and then in 1997 he tried to tear one cop's eyes out as he bit another on the arm as they tried to arrest him. He got nine months.

McCallam, now of Hanwell, west London, instantly knew his last victim was autistic and soon deduced she was a virgin.

The judge fixed a minimum release date of only 40 months, arguing the dangerous pervert had already served time on remand.

## War crime trial starts

BERMONDSEY: The first war crimes trial this country has began at the Old Bailey.

Anthony Sawoniuk, 77, of Cadbury Way, denies murdering four Jews as part of Hitler's devastating final solution.

The plump pensioner is said to have killed the two men and two women as part of his role as a Nazi-appointed police officer in his native town on the Polish-Belorussia border.

The jury will spend four days in the town to see the sites where the alleged murders took place.

The case is being brought under the 1991 War Crimes Act.

## Gulf soldier charged

WATERLOO: A Gulf War veteran has been accused of stealing medical records allegedly concerning the 'Gulf War Syndrome.'

Ex-Parachute Regiment Corporal Andrew Honer, 41, who served three months in the

# SQUATTERS PLEDGE TO STOP EVICTION

## Anarchists invade town hall and rife through files

by ANDREA PERRY and SONIA GAYLE

**SQUATTERS caused traffic chaos when they barricaded a busy main road with rubbish bins and old washing machines.**

Fearing bailiffs were about to evicted them, supporters of Save The 121 Centre blocked off Railton Road, Brixton, at 8am yesterday.

While about 100 anarchists were involved in a stand-off across the barricades with police, 30 of their number stormed the town hall in Acre Lane, Brixton.

They evaded security to get into the Labour group office where they emptied files from Lambeth Council leader Jim Dickson's desk into the bin.

They had to be removed by police as there were too many of them to



● Squatters blocked off Railton Road, Brixton, protesting yesterday against eviction

Photo: NICK WOOD

be ejected by the council's own security staff.

Back at Railton Road the squatters were still refusing to be evicted from the building that they have occupied for 18 years.

An international campaign has been launched to save the centre

which has become a meeting place for a whole range of underground groups.

Supt Des Stout from Brixton police station said yesterday, "The squatters will not be evicted from the premises today. We hope to have a future meeting with Lambeth

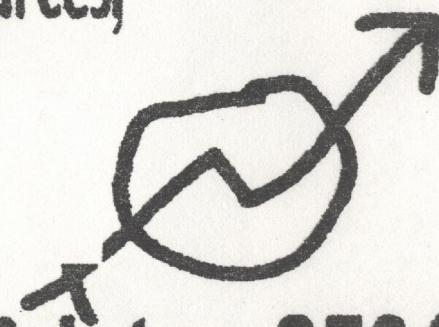
Council and the residents of the 121 Railton Road, and hope that something can be sorted out."

A spokesperson for the protesters said, "The bailiffs turned up but they didn't expect this. Right now the top man from Brixton is saying we won't be evicted for the next two days."

# 121 Centre EVICTION



121 has been squatted in Brixton  
for 18 years. Now we have lost  
under The Law !!  
**WE NEED HELP TO DEFEND THIS  
INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS  
squat. Bring ideas, resources,  
suggestions etc.**



fight for your history

**121 Railton Rd, Brixton SE24**

**FUCK THE LAW and FUCK THEIR GENTRIFICATION**

DROP IN ANY DAY 12 NOON ONWARDS - 0171 9788214  
0171 2746655

# **RESIST**

## **THE 121**

### **EVICTION**

**friday**

**12th Feb**

**7am**

**121 railton  
road**

## cappuccino council gives 121 the froth

Since January 14th, the 121 Centre in Brixton has been waiting for the bailiffs, after losing possession to the Council in Lambeth County Court. Over the last 3 weeks we have been campaigning and talking to neighbours and locals, and getting a lot of support in our fight to stay in the building.

On Monday 8th, at 7am, we were out in the street. The 121 had been barricaded against the bailiffs. When the police started sniffing around, we barricaded the street around 121 and started up a sound system.

Around 70 of us held the street for about 2 hours. However the cops were a bit confused. Chief Inspector Craggs approached us, and in negotiations (with most of us), told us he had already called off the eviction because of public order issues. We held several meetings of all present, discussing what to do. A council officer, from the corporate property dept., came to confirm the Scraggs words, so did Brixton top cop Superintendent Stout.

We decided to take down the street barricades, as the bailiffs weren't coming and the cops were about to come and do it anyway. At the same time as we were blocking the street, 3 large local squats were evicted nearby. It was felt that we had to persuade the council of our determination to defend the 121. Leaving a group in the building around 45 of us proceeded to successfully storm Lambeth Town Hall. That afternoon a council officer rang the 121, the Council leader was prepared to meet us at our convenience, to discuss what we wanted. We arranged to meet them two days later...

## supping with the devil

Three of us went to meet with Council Leader Jim Dickson, armed with a mandate from the 121 Collective. We were prepared to ask for a deal, where we got to keep the building, acknowledged the council as our landlords, but we paid no rent in exchange for doing repairs. We knew we could not afford a proper tenancy but Slim Jim was not willing to negotiate. His reply "...to sell the building to raise vital funds for their program to improve Lambeth services". The same services being cut as we speak: schools, libraries, housing.

The whole meeting for Oily Jim was just a Public Relations exercise - sliming around us so he could cover his back.

It left us in the same position as we went in - waiting for the bailiffs and ready to resist.

# STOP THE BAILIFFS!

## FIGHT THE EVICTION OF 121!

Today Lambeth Council is trying to evict the 121 Centre, which we have been squatting for 18 years. In court on January 14th they claimed they still owned the building, despite leaving us in possession for so long. They want to sell the building off in March, probably to some yuppies or a property company.

### WHAT IS 121?



121 Railton Road was squatted in December 1980. Since 1981 it has been used as an anarchist bookshop and information centre, a cheap cafe and social space, a meeting point for local & political groups, provided offices for magazines, newspapers and publishing collectives; a late night club and gig venue. From the building people have been involved in many campaigns & social struggles, including supporting the Miners and Printers' strikes in the 80s, housing and squatting struggles, anti-racist & anti-fascist organising, supporting prisoners here & abroad, fighting the poll tax, women organising for themselves; against council cuts, evictions and redevelopments, anti-benefit cuts - **to name but a few**. Brixton Squatters Aid from 1982 has given

help & advice & lent tools to 1000s of people squatting in abandoned property in Lambeth. 121 has been a space for people to meet, eat, talk, & dance, a space under the control of those who use it, not tied to or funded by the council or any institution, free of interference from bureaucrats & business. This is why the council want us out - because we've never hesitated to attack the powers that be when they deserve it, & we have shown you don't need the council or any other power over people's lives.

### UNDER ATTACK

121 has survived eviction threats before, as well as a police raid in 1984, press lies about us & an attempt by fascists to burn the centre down in 1993. This time the council are determined to kick us out. **But we won't go quietly!** We are blockading the street to stop them getting to the building. Come down & help out! Even if we are evicted, we will not go away. The struggles we have been involved in will continue! We live here and will find other spaces to organise from. In this society, where profit rules and people are forced to work for the rich and many of us live in misery or poverty, most of us are forced to struggle every day.

24 Hours More Than Life!

# I. Squatter's Worldgames!

We proudly present the

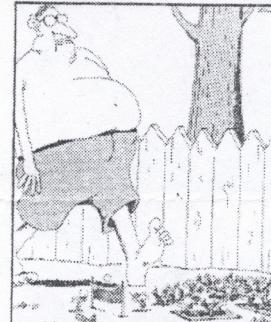
Self-Initiative!

in Leipzig/ Germany

Anti-Fascist-Action!

Own-Food-Supply!

Fun! Big Final Showdown!



Without suspicion the property-speculator strolled into the squatters barbecue...

We try to set a **World Record** for the  
**Guinness-Book Of Records:**

The **Greatest Number of House-Squattings ever within 24 Hours!**

Come One, Come All!

„Leipzig 2004: The last piece of city-center has been sold to Mitsubishi to clear the space for a new 80 km high multi-storey carpark. It will provide enough parking space for the new 15 km long shopping mall between railstation and airport. As we hear, Mitsubishi will reconstruct the inner city of Leipzig in its original form in Japan as a part of the theme-park., East-Germany: Breaking The Wall“...

Lots of empty houses, demolition of old city-quarters, no squats in Europe 2000 because of „Schengen“ contract, more+more repression, videosupervision of inner-cities for clean consumerterror, racism everywhere and 10.000 Fascists want to march in Leipzig on 1st of May?

## Enough is Enough. Here + Now.

Probably the last eruption of Squatters-Movement, but a bloody loud one!!!

-We crack the „Leipziger Linie“  
(Leipzig Government says: no new squats and eviction of new squats within 24 hours)

-Before the 1st of May we are gonna show the fascist that we are many more than them! Nazi's piss off!

That's how it works:  
arrival day should be one day before, cause Police might close down the city and send everyone home. You should carry with you a valid Passport, sleeping-bag, something

The countdown starts off Friday, April 24 at 3 pm. The people not evicted till Saturday 3pm should stay in if they like to, or call others to save the house. And all that happens one day before the Mayors - Election.

Whether the squats are evicted or not, there will be a big final showdown with all people together.

Last not least: Anna + Arthur keep their mouth shut! No statements to Police and to the Law!



Suddenly the homeowner faced some completely unexpected problem

## Sure We Squat!

Eviction makes no sense while the house next door is also being squatted!

Make A Move! FR. April 24, 1998 from 3 pm. Leipzig/Germany

ViaSalP.: B. Sitter, An der Altenburg 4, Leipzig

*ACE*  
**RESIST THE EVICTION!**



**GET  
DOWN  
TO  
121!**

**Make  
Some  
Noise**

**121 RAILTON ROAD,  
BRIXTON  
MONDAY 8TH FEB  
FROM 7AM**

**After 18 years the Council is evicting the 121  
Squat Centre. Come down & defend 121!**

# THEY CAN'T STOP US...

18 years in  
occupation

NO  
EVICTION

121 Centre  
121 Railton Rd  
Brixton SE24

Open Every Day  
..help us out!

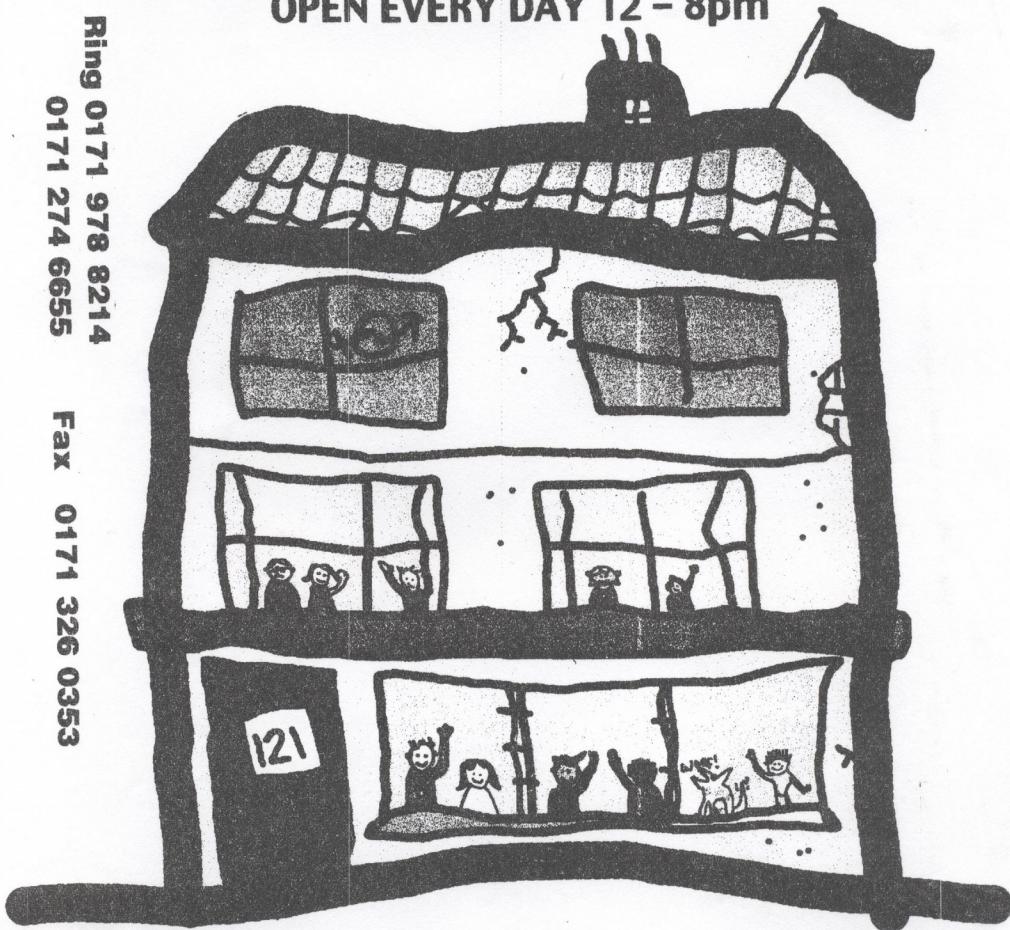


**18 years in occupation**

# **SAVE 121**

**121 Centre, 121 Railton Rd Brixton**

**OPEN EVERY DAY 12 - 8pm**



**and KEEP BRIXTON FREE**

Ring 0171 978 8214

0171 274 6655

Fax 0171 326 0353

# 121 CENTRE: WE'RE STILL HERE!

The future of the long-running 121 anarchist squat centre hangs in the balance. On January 14th, after 18 years of occupation, Lambeth Council won a possession order in Lambeth County Court, entitling them to evict the squatters after 14 days. The 121 Collective had contested that the council had lost title to the building, under the 12 year adverse possession principle. The council argued that since the squatters had fought a 1983-5 court case on the grounds that they were licensees, they had recognised the council's title to the property. This renders the 12 year clause irrelevant, as you are not allowed to recognise the council or acknowledge they have any right to evict you or grant you a licence, tenancy etc. Since letters were exchanged in June 1985, 11 years, 11 months and 2 weeks before the latest proceedings began, the Judge Cox decided the case was still going, although it had been adjourned and not come back to court for over 12 years. All legal arguments by the 121 and learned friends were rejected. Leave to appeal was refused.

On Friday February 5th the occupiers of 121 were told by the bailiffs that they were coming on to evict us on Monday 8th. Over the weekend we spread the word and prepared ourselves, flyposting the area, distributing newsletters and phoning friends and allies.

For the last 3 weeks, the 121 Collective and friends have been producing publicity: leaflets, letters, emails, the South London Stress, posters, a booklet. We've campaigned around the area, drawing links between the eviction of 121 and the clearance of squatters from the area, the gradual gentrification of Brixton and the slow destruction of its street culture and communities. As well as increasing council cuts, sell-offs, dubious redevelopments. This has achieved us some support, leading us to interesting conversations and ideas about future actions.

## INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Meanwhile emails were being sent from supporters all over the country and the world to the council, demanding the eviction be stopped. The council leader Jim Dickson replied that the council needed the money from selling off the 121 building to help do up Brixton for the good of the locals... yeah yeah.

## CAPPUCINO COUNCIL GIVES US FROTH

Much of the City Challenge money spent between the last few years has done little for the locals but allowed the middle class to colonise Brixton's Town Centre and push many of us out of our houses, our pubs, and future plans intend to knock down parts of the market and shops too. (Not counting large amounts paid as fat salaries to a range of professional community-wreckers, or that have just vanished. Where did all the money for the tube development go?) Many people are a bit suspicious of it all.

## E-DAY?

Monday morning, at 7am, we were out in the street. The 121 had been barricaded against the bailiffs. When the police started sniffing around, we barricaded the street around 121, setting off our air-raid siren and starting up a sound system.

Around 70 of us held the street for about 2 hours. However the cops were a bit confused. Chief Inspector Craggs approached us, and in negotiations (with most of us) told us he had already called off the eviction because of public order issues. He was being very polite, even cracking jokes. The bailiffs, he said, had been planning to come down with a few builders and kick the door in. Not really ready for resistance. We weren't going to be evicted that day - or for a few days after, he claimed.

We held several meetings of all present, discussing what to do. A council officer, from the corporate property dept., came to confirm Scraggs' words, so did Brixton top cop Superintendent Stout. So eventually did the bailiffs. It rang true. The cops and the council said they were meeting the following day to discuss the 121. We said we wanted to be involved in any discussions. Crabs and Snout said no, but they would talk to us afterwards.

## TAKE US TO YOUR LEADER

We decided to press the issue. We took down the street barricades, as the bailiffs weren't coming and the cops were about to come and do it anyway. We felt we had to persuade the council we were determined to defend 121. Leaving a group in the building, 45 of us proceeded to storm Lambeth Town Hall, running through the building, looking for the Council Leader's office. We got there, but Jim Dickson was out. 2 security guards & an office worker,

assaulted a few of us, overdoing their job for no good reason since we didn't want to fight them. The cops arrived, broke through the office door and chucked us out, handcuffing 5 or 6 people and being generally less pleasant than they'd been earlier on at our barricade. Higher-up coppers may be politicians but your ornery bobby likes nothing better than kicking ass. We were booted out without arrests.

### **We'd proved that their building is easier to get into than ours...**

All in all the day was a good laugh, and showed that the council and the police are wary of the 121 and what trouble we can cause. It may be they are stalling, while they prepare a large-scale assault. At the same time as we were blocking the street, 3 large local squats who were waiting for the bailiffs were evicted nearby (See elsewhere). On Monday afternoon , a council officer rang the 121. He said the Council leader was prepared to meet us, at our convenience, to discuss what we wanted. We arranged to meet them 2 days later.

## **SUPPING WITH THE DEVIL**

Three of us went to meet with Council Leader Jim Dickson, armed with a mandate from the 121 Collective. We were prepared to ask for a deal, where we got to keep the building, acknowledging the council as our landlords, but not paying no rent, & them not responsible for repairs. We knew we could not afford a proper tenancy. This seemed the only option. (Lambeth and other councils have made this kind of deal before). If they were willing to negotiate we might as well push it.

Slim Jim was not willing to negotiate. He restated what he'd said in replies to the many emails supporters had sent to the council: they had to sell the building to raise vital funds for their program to improve Lambeth services. The same services being cut as we speak: schools, libraries, housing. He offered us the opportunity to pay an unaffordable amount of cash for one of a number of Lambeth buildings in the boonies - just where they want us, miles away from Brixton, our home, where property is hot and its only a short walk to Slippery Jim's office (open all hours).

**We took the list of empties though: cheers Jim, we'll pass them on to people made homeless by your policies.**

The whole meeting for Oily Jim was just a Public Relations exercise - covering his back. He only got the tiniest bit rattled when we suggested that us resisting the eviction might cost them more than they'd get from the auction. We never had much hope of getting something out of the negotiations, and we were right. We left in the same position as we went in - waiting for the bailiffs and ready to resist.

**THE LATEST:** Another eviction date was set for Friday Feb 12th, but the council withdrew this. They realise now they need to plan a bigger operation.

**121 still needs support! Call in, or ring us on 0171 274 6655/ 0171 978 8214.**

**Visit the 121 Website at: <http://i.am/121centre>**

**e-mail:mark261@hotmail.com**

**121 Railton Road, Brixton, London, SE24.**

**THAT'S UP TO YOU! THE 121**

121 collective  
121 Railton Road, Brixton, London, SE24  
tel: 0171 274 6655/ 0171 978 8214  
e-mail:mark261@hotmail.com  
<http://i.am/121centre>

# South London Stress

## 121 Centre Evicted

After 18 years of continuous occupation and 210 days of resistance since the courts ruled in favour of Lambeth Council, the 121 Centre on Railton Road has been evicted. This was not the first time the bailiffs had attempted an eviction, back in February

that resistance was futile. The building has now been systematically decimated, probably to sit empty for a long time to come or to be bought up by some parasitic yuppie looking to make a quick buck out of Brixton's new cleaner image.

Speaking of

cleansing,

smug faced Jim

Dickson said in

the Evening

Standard on the

day of the evic-

tion he has

vowed to clear

Lambeth of

squatters, "we

are systematic-

ally clearing

up the borough

and dealing with the legacy of the past." We

think Jim would have gone far in Milosovich's

regime in Serbia. As for the end of squatting,

we'll see about that.



120 locals, dismayed at the action the council took to evict an effective community centre, sealed off Railton Road and stood firm against all attempts by bailiffs and police to enter the building. A few months later the occupants organised a street party to show their defiance of the Council's planned eviction. But it was not until Thursday morning at 6.30am that the building fell victim to Cllr. Jim Dickson's cancerous tentacles. The seven occupants, faced with 150 police in riot gear armed with guns and sledgehammers decided in this case

and dealing with the legacy of the past." We think Jim would have gone far in Milosovich's regime in Serbia. As for the end of squatting, we'll see about that.

Below: Text of an anonymous leaflet handed out in Brixton on Friday

### Dastardly Darth Dickson And His Stormtroopers Strike Again!

121 Centre Evicted after 18 and a half years.

6.30am, Thursday Morning- A massive posse including armed police, a helicopter, 150 riot cops, sheriff's officers and a couple of brainless stooges from the council make their way through Brixton. Seizing Railton Road and all streets leading into it the goons smash their way into the centre through the first floor window. Within minutes the overwhelming forces of the Evil Empire (otherwise known as Slippery Jimbo's lackey's) take the building ending 6752 consecutive days of occupation.

Who wasted taxpayers money for this outrageous act? Who gloated over the eviction of one of London's oldest squat centre? Who is now going to flog off the building to further line their own pockets? Yes you guessed it- those Johnny Come Lately yuppies at the Lambeth council that who!

Led by their weasely faced money laundering pal Michael D(odgy) Perrott, their man at Nelson Bakewell property speculators the council continue to sell off the thousands of houses that they have abandoned for decades. Many of these houses have been occupied by people who, fed up with the lack of decent social housing and council corruption, took it upon themselves to end the wastage by a succession of greedy and incompetent Lambeth administrations. Having maintained and repaired these buildings they are now being repaid with a kick in the teeth.

What do you get out of this? Not much judging by the continuing school, library, community centre and playground closures. What do the councillors get out of this? Quite a bit judging by their 100% pay increases and the piles of money they are giving out freely to their yuppie developer mates.

After decades of council mismanagement, corruption and greed enough is enough. Call the following and let them know what you think of their low down dirty dealing:

Lambeth Council-  
Michael D(odgy) Perrott (Nelson Bakewell boss)-0171 544 2299  
Jim Dick (The Fuhrer of Lambeth)- 0171 926 2965/2123  
Gerard Currrant (Lambeth Legal Service's Fence)-0171 926 2331

#13

### Contacts

#### Friends of Lambeth Libraries

(0171) 587 3517 or  
(0171) 735 1672.

#### Save our Schools

(0181) 674 3490.

#### Tenants Corner-Advice on housing

(0171) 582 7286.  
56a Info

#### Shop/Fareshares Food Co-op

56 Crampton St,

Kennington, SE17.

Open Thursday/Friday

3-7pm.

#### 121 website-

<http://i.am/121centre>

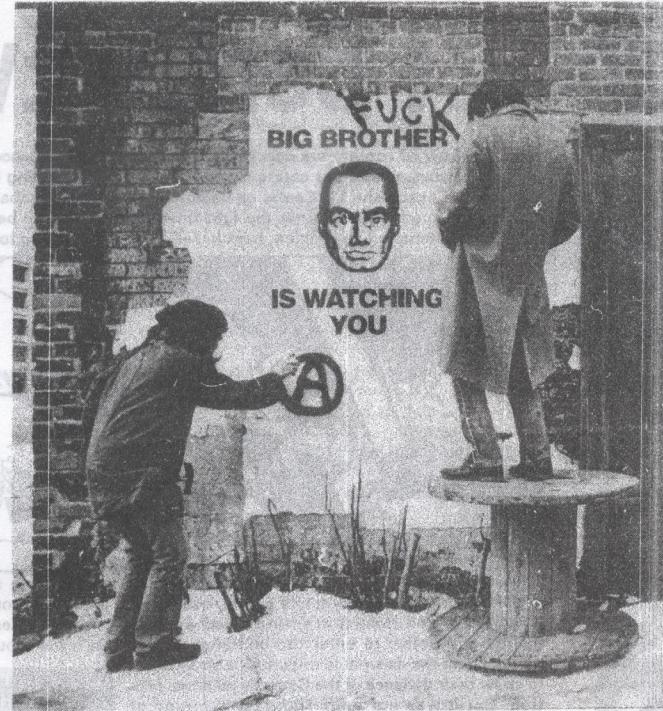
## Congratulations!

• To the Strathleven Rd squatter for gaining ownership of the council house he has occupied for the last 15 years. Rather than enduring years on a council waiting list he took over, repaired and maintained a house that Lambeth had consigned to the dustbin. Slippery Jim Dickson and his pals in the conservative press have been fuming over this lost opportunity for the council to further line their pockets. We on the other hand feel that ownership is a just (not to mention legal) reward for the many years of work the squatter has put in.

• To the 121 Centre for successfully holding off their eviction for 210 days. Judging by the scale of the police operation the squat defenders had scared the pants off "get tough" Lambeth who were forced to bring in armed bully boys to do their dirty work.

• To the wallies at the council who recently voted themselves pay increases of up to 100% whilst demanding cutbacks from all the people who actually work there. We knew you were only in it for the money, but now you've gone and proven it!

• To all the groups fighting cutbacks to schools, libraries, playgrounds, child-care and other social services in Lambeth. Thanks to your efforts a number of the council's evil plans have been stalled and others thwarted. You've shown that you've got to be in it to win it.



## Spies in the Sky.

Everyone knows that the numerous CCTV cameras dotted around Brixton and Lambeth are useless in preventing anti-social crimes, but a recent spate of unsolved rapes and muggings have demonstrated that the cameras are also useless in solving them. On top of this is the revelation, following a stabbing directly beneath a camera in Rushcroft Rd, that many of the cameras are actually fakes! This situation raises a number of questions- If only a small number of the cameras actually work then where are they pointed? (At the Town Hall and Slippery Jim Dickson's mates' businesses we presume). If the cameras have been shown, here and elsewhere, to be incapable of preventing crime then why are we being spied on? If the council has been putting in fake cameras then where have all the millions of pounds spent on CCTV actually gone? Where's the money Jim?

## Brought To Book?

*"Lambeth's libraries are miserable, uninspiring, poorly maintained... Lets be honest about it- Lambeth has the worst libraries in Britain." Toady Torren Smith, Council Chair of the Environment, January 1999.*

Eight months ago the council put forth the bizarre idea that closing a number of Lambeth's Libraries they would somehow be able to provide a better library service. This brilliant concept went along with the idea that closing schools would lead to better education, that closing playgrounds would give kids more places to play, that closing disabled services would mean more resources for the disabled, etc. Meaningless terms like "Centres of Excellence" were thrown about and a new "tough" Labour crony Big Frankie Quigg was given the £100 000+ a year job of doing the job on Lambeth's library staff and users.

In the time since the council declared it's "National Year of Reading in Lambeth" we haven't had many new books to read and Lambeth remains the borough with the fewest books, CDs and videos per resident. Library staff are still being blamed by councillors for the neglect of previous council administrations and the fact that New Labour won't spend our money on services that we want. The only new thing seen round the libraries (other than the continuing closure programme) are the much touted private IT centres. These centres, propped up with residents' money and sucking up the little cash left in the library budget, are more expensive than most other internet providers. If Croydon library can provide a free internet service for its users then why are people in Lambeth expected to pay £5 an hour?

Why? Because the council doesn't give a shit

about community services. At the beginning of the year many people saw that the council's library hype was just a cover for sacking staff and closing libraries. So far protests have stopped the council from going too far with their dodgy plans. We need to keep up the effort.

Latest news is that the Council have reprieved Durning Library indefinitely and the other 4 will be kept open until next April, a case of Jim Dickson not wanting to tarnish his already turdy reputation more before he retires in the coming months, and you know where he can shove his golden handshake.

Contact Friends of Lambeth Libraries- 0171 587 3517 or 0171 735 1672.



Good  
Luck

We wish you the best of luck  
if you plan on buying 121  
Railton Road, Brixton,  
today. No doubt Andrews &  
Robertson's have failed to  
mention the building's his-  
tory as a squatted Anarchist  
centre. This internationally  
known squat has seen its  
share of shady characters  
over the last 2 decades.  
Imagine their anger at its  
recent armed eviction and  
auction. Some people have  
long memories....

**DON'T BUY TROUBLE.**